

## Rabbi's Column

### "And You Shall Teach These Words"

*"And these words ... shall be upon your hearts, and you shall teach them to your children."*

The words we use shape the way we think about reality. Language systems subtly stress different aspects of culture and perspective. For example, English is a language in which "gendered" nouns usually purport to describe biological differences—that is, woman or man.



Rabbi Jane Litman

However, feminist theory clearly has shown that the linguistic assignment of gender in English often has social overtones. In English, when inanimate nouns have gender, such as when a ship or a country is referred to as "she," a political subtext about human gender relations is usually being expressed. Or when the generic words are masculine, such as the word "mankind," women are rendered invisible or other in terms of cultural norms.

But many other languages, such as Hebrew, assign every noun (and verb, adjective and adverb) a gender. This can be disconcerting to the politically sophisticated English reader, who expects to find a subtext about human gender relations in these grammatical categories. What can one make of the fact that in Hebrew the words "hand," "stone" and "car" are feminine while "whisper" and "dwelling" are masculine? Grammatical gender in such languages is difficult to interpret in terms of American cultural roles.

It is a more daunting task to render Hebrew gender neutral (or gender inclusive) than to do the same for English. Are any Hebrew words gender neutral? Or perhaps they all are, since gender is a category of grammar rather

*Continued on page 6*

## Tu B'Shevat

Tu B'Shevat, literally the 15th of Shevat, is the Jewish new year of the trees. It seems strange that the new year for trees is in this late winter month of February. But the Gemara explains that in Israel, as is true in California, even though most of winter is still to come, most of the rain has already fallen so the sap begins to rise and the trees flourish.

Jews celebrate Tu B'Shevat in a variety of ways. We taste the traditional fruits of Israel, plant trees, collect money to plant trees in Israel, and according to Kabbalistic tradition, have a seder that connects us with the mystical aspects of the holiday.

CSZ will celebrate in a number of ways. First, on Tuesday, February 10, at 7 pm, CSZ is co-sponsoring the annual community Tu B'shevat Seder (see the enclosed flier for details).

Then, on Thursday, February 12, also at 7 pm, Sha'ar Zahav is co-sponsoring a women's Tu B'Shevat Seder at the San Francisco JCC. The cost is \$8 for JCC members and \$10 for nonmembers.

And finally, to connect to the grass-roots this holiday, all CSZ members are invited to plant buckeyed oak trees at Muir Woods on Sunday, February 15, at 10 am. We will meet in the Muir Woods overflow parking lot.

Call Renée in the office for further details.

## Queer Jewish Identity

Join La'atid on Sunday, February 22, at 10:30 am, for *In Our Image: Queer Jewish Identity*, a panel presentation and discussion on the forces that have shaped our identity as queer Jews. Our panel of noted academics will present varying opinions on the question of whether Jews have made the modern queer political movement in our own image. We will meet at the Presidio Alliance. Drive west on Lombard Street into the Presidio. The Alliance is the first building on the left through the Presidio gate.

## CSZ Interim Space Information

**Contacting us:** Our telephone, fax and e-mail remain the same.

Telephone: (415) 861-6932

Fax: (415) 861-6081

E-mail: [shaarzahav@igc.apc.org](mailto:shaarzahav@igc.apc.org)

Website: [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

**Writing us:** Please send all roster updates, newsletter submissions, dues payments, donations and other materials to our new home. Use this address for writing to us only.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Visiting us:** Rabbi Litman and our office staff are sharing space with the staff of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th St., catty-corner from our new building. Our drop-in hours are limited. Please call us before dropping by.

**Worship services:** All Shabbat services, except our monthly East Bay service, are being held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Healing services are at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St.

**Meetings:** Va'ad meetings remain open to all members, and are at 345 Church St. (Church Street Gardens). For the location of committee meetings, contact the chair of the committee.

## Tot Shabbat

This month's Tot Shabbat will be held on Friday evening, February 27 at 6:45, at St. Mathew's Lutheran Church. We are always looking for new service leaders. Call Renée in the office if you are interested in learning to lead Tot Shabbat.



## Getting Started; Getting a Peek

Many of you have probably noticed that construction has begun at 290 Dolores, and we now have the opportunity to create a space that reflects who we are. Up until now, I have been connected with construction projects only in work settings. I was responsible for working with contractors, making sure that what was designed met the needs of the agency, and for staying within a budget—needs that this project also has—but my relationship here is far more personal. The final result of this construction will create our new synagogue. It will be a place where we will



Diana Buchbinder

share our spiritual journeys, our joy, pain and life's adventures.

While we were very lucky to find a building which is basically sound, we are required to bring the building up to code. We will finally have a wheelchair-accessible building, with several bathrooms, which will improve the quality of life of our members. But these necessary and worthwhile improvements mean that we have had to make some hard decisions about how to spend the money we have raised, and are having to put off making other improvements, such as remodeling the downstairs.

This building is special not only be-

cause it reflects who we are, but also because so many of our community have contributed to making it happen. Some people have contributed financially; for some it is the greatest financial commitment they have ever made. Others have contributed with time—working on committees, fundraising and carrying boxes during the move. In a project that is this important, no contribution is too small or unnecessary. As the project progresses, there will be many more opportunities to contribute. We will be doing some of the finishing work ourselves, and will again need help moving our belongings out of storage and into our new home, to name a few tasks.

It is tempting to stop, as I drive by, and ask to be let in to see how the construction is progressing. It will become even more tempting once the work of raising the roof begins, and the space begins to take on its new form. While we have been very fortunate to find a good team to work with us on this project, thanks in no small part to Alice Prussin, they were less than enthusiastic at the thought of members stopping by during construction. But this is our new home, and we want to see it being created, so, in the best CSZ tradition, we compromised. Be on the look out for a schedule of tours of the new building during construction. I think I may have to go on every one.

## Rabbi News

During the first week in January, Rabbi Litman attended the conference of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis. The theme of the conference was "The Reform Movement in the Next 25 Years." Its focus was a dialogue with Rabbi Eric Yoffie, director of the UAHC, Rabbi Paul Menitoff, director of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, president of Hebrew Union College.

On Saturday, February 7, Rabbi Litman will lead Torah study at the UAHC Spirituality Retreat at Camp Newman. On Sunday, February 8 at 11 am, listen for Rabbi Litman on KALW (FM 91.7). She'll be discussing "What it's like to be a rabbi" on *Work With Marty Nemko*. On February 10, Rabbi Litman will be featured at the Bureau of Jewish Education's Feast of Jewish Learning Lunch and Learn (see article on page 3).

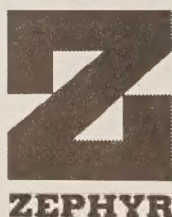
On Thursday, February 19, Rabbi Litman will be on a discussion panel following the performance of our member Sara Felder's show *June Bride*, at A Traveling Jewish Theatre. And on Thursday, March 5, Rabbi Litman will participate in a rabbinic panel on women's changing roles in Jewish life, at the Santa Cruz Hillel Foundation.

## Project Open Hand

Once again, volunteers from CSZ and Jewish Family and Children's Services did a terrific job filling in for regular volunteers at Project Open Hand during the Christmas season. One hundred and twenty five people gave their time and energy to assure that Project Open Hand's regular meal delivery to clients with HIV and AIDS went uninterrupted. Kol hakavod to everyone who volunteered, and especially to CSZ members Sarita Groisser, Stephan Howard and Laura Lowe, who coordinated this important mitzvah. Project Open Hand is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, contact Marilyn Picariello at 447-2300.



Thanks to member support,  
I have contributed over  
\$4,000 to Mishkan Dolores.  
Thank you!



**Deborah Udin**  
**ZEPHYR Real Estate**  
**(415) 552-9500 ext. 122**  
email: [deudin@aol.com](mailto:deudin@aol.com)



## World Zionist Congress Report

—Ron Lezell

In late December, I had the privilege of attending the 33rd World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem as a delegate for the U.S. Reform movement. The Congress was a complete success for our movement, creating, as Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) President Philip Meltzer and Exec. Director Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch said, "a new reality in the Jewish world." Following is a summary, based in part on Philip and Ammiel's report.

Founded in 1897 by Theodor Herzl, this "Parliament of the Jewish People" is held every four or five years. It has a total of 500 full voting delegates from around the world—Israel (38%)—in proportion to the representation of parties in the Knesset, the U.S. (29%) and the remainder of the diaspora (33%), largely determined by elections in the various countries.

Founded in 1977, ARZA elected nine delegates to the 1982 Congress and surged to 33 delegates (out of 145 from the U.S.) in the 1987 elections. Fearful of the rising strength of the Reform (and Conservative) movements, the more established Zionist organizations in the U.S. successfully thwarted elections to the 1992 Congress. Finally, in 1997, re-

lying on a Zionist Supreme Court decision in our favor, ARZA, this time in alliance with the Conservative Zionist group Mercaz, forced the first elections in a decade.

The elections in the U.S. took place in the summer of 1997. With many of you voting, ARZA stunned the Jewish world by receiving almost 50% of the total vote, achieving 70 of the 145 delegates. Mercaz received over 25% of the vote. The Orthodox parties received approximately 10%.

We received a mandate from American voters to try to change the very character of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Our goal was to convert the WZO, and through it, the Jewish Agency, into the preeminent voice for religious pluralism and progressive values in Israel.

Sitting in the Jerusalem convention center with delegates, alternates and observers, one could sense the dramatic change that was about to take place. The conference rooms were filled with hundreds of proud and determined Reform and Conservative representatives. The Congress had never seen anything quite like it. In previous Congresses, the

*Continued on page 9*

## Fun Filled Chanukah

CSZ's second annual December celebration, Chanukah at Home, was quite a success. The weekend of festivities began on Saturday night at the home of Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado, where 40 guests enjoyed Arthur's home cooked kugels and brisket. (Yes, our treasurer cooked kugel and brisket for 40!) That same evening, Geoff Benjamin and Michael Chertok hosted a party for the La'atid crowd. Hot dogs were the main affair at this party. Alongside the kosher hot dogs (and vegi-dogs for those herbivores in the crowd) were served the proper trimmings—sauerkraut, kosher pickles, mustard and ketchup. Playing in the background was music from the "Hebrew National Kosher Classics" CD.

On Sunday, CSZ Chanukah festivities continued at the home of Liz, Michael and Allison Schaffer. Families with children played and celebrated a double simcha together—Chanukah and Allison's fifth birthday. Meanwhile at the home of Jeff Forman and Paul Nemrow, 15 Sha'ar Zahav men gathered to enjoy fabulous latkes and kick off a new season of men's programming.

Chanukah at CSZ would not have been such a success without the gracious hospitality of all the hosts. Todah rabah to all.

## Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Litman

As part of the annual Feast of Jewish Learning, Rabbi Litman will be leading a lunch time Torah Study session on Tuesday, February 10 at 12 noon. Bring a brown bag lunch.

This event is hosted by the San Francisco Bar Association and will take place at 465 California Street, Suite 1100. Everyone is welcome to attend, but please RSVP to Mike Zimmerman at 782-8904 or [mzimmerman@sfbar.org](mailto:mzimmerman@sfbar.org).

## Calling All CSZ Men

All CSZ men are invited to a planning meeting for new men's programming on Thursday, February 12, at 7 pm, at the home of David Gellman, 676 Duncan St. at Diamond. On Saturday, February 28, we will hold an all-men's Shabbat minyan followed by brunch. Please call Renée in the office for information.



*CSZ men celebrate Chanukah!*



## December Va'ad Meeting

President Diana Buchbinder led the meeting.

The d'var torah was delivered by Rabbi Litman, who noted that many liturgical celebrations reflect natural cycles. Among Jewish celebrations and holidays, Shabbat is the exception, reflecting a seven-day cycle created by humankind in covenant with the Creator.

Minutes from November 10, 1997 were amended and approved.

During her rabbi's report, Rabbi Litman raised the issue of renaming two committees. A motion to direct the By-laws Committee to bring to the congregation the recommendation that we change the Adult Education Committee to Talmud Torah and the Social Action Committee to G'milut Chasadim was discussed and unanimously approved. The rabbi reported also that there are three new babies in the congregation.

In her president's report, Diana Buchbinder distributed rules for submissions to the *Gaily Forward* and presented the results of the Kadimah Meeting Day survey. The Membership Committee proposed creation of an interim directory to connect members to each other and facilitate communication. Names, home addresses, home telephone numbers and e-mail addresses (where available) are to be included. Diana also circulated a reading by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

In her administrator's report, Lea Salem thanked John Atteridge, Alex Ingersoll, Joe Hample and Tiela Chalmers for assistance in the move from Danvers Street.

In her program director's report, Renée Bauer detailed plans for Chanukah and a collaboration with Project Open Hand on Christmas day. A motion to accept a \$400 budget for Chanukah parties was discussed and unanimously approved.

Treasurer Art Slepian submitted a balance sheet dated October 31, 1997 and commented that about half of our liquid assets are committed to the new building. Revenue from dues is down slightly while expenses are right on target. He said that the Finance Committee met to draft a letter to committee chairs. In other financial news, we have reached 98% of the Mishkan Dolores goal in committed pledges.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, Sara Haber reported the resig-

nations of three family units. She outlined the strategy for greeting while we are meeting at St. Matthew's: two greeters will be posted upstairs and one downstairs at the entry door at all times for security reasons. No one is to close the church alone after services conclude, again for security reasons.

## HIV + Support Group

CSZ has ongoing support services for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners on the second Saturday of every month (please note the change), in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners at the homes of members. Mark your calendars for this month's event:

Saturday, February 14 at 3 pm: Support Group led by Rabbi Litman and Robert Tat. Please call the office for the location. If you have any questions or would like to put your name on our confidential mailing list, please let us know. Join us.

## Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

**Miriam Trentman and Batya Kalis**, on the death of Miriam's father, Harry S. Trentman.

**Sue Swigart**, on the death of her grandmother, Esther Swigart.

**Susan Tubbesing**, on the death of her aunt, Fay Mutchnick.

**Byron Sigal, Susan Jacobson and Adam and David Sigal**, on the death of Byron's mother, Lillian Sigal.

**Ellen Goldstein**, on the death of her great aunt, Delma Goldstein.

**Doug Rodgers**, on the death of his grandmother, Evelyn Prince.

**Lonnie Weiss**, on the death of her uncle, Sidney Blaurock.

**Sara Felder Noily**, on the death of her friend, Blanche Stepper.

**Stephan Howard**, on the death of his mother-in-law, Donna Noriega.

Litigation  
Estate Planning  
Personal Injury  
Business Law  
Probate  
Real Estate  
Employment  
discrimination

Legal  
Help

Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad, Gibson & Harris, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100 Van Ness  
21st Floor  
San Francisco  
California  
94102

  
Call David Gellman  
415-621-5600



*The Jewish Gaily Forward* is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July–August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 861-6932. Email: ShaarZahav@igc.apc.org. To request permission to reprint material, contact Robin Leonard (841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com).

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

#### Members of the Newsletter Committee

*Chair and Editorial Coordinator:* Robin Leonard

*Layout Coordinator:* Rose Katz

*Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Stephan Howard, Brian Jersky, Laura Lowe, Doug Rodgers, Jacob Rothman, Karen Schiller, Sam Thal, Tory Weiser

*Photography:* Michael Bettinger

*Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)

*Distribution:* Rachael Maclachlan and Nancy Silverrod, co-coordinators; Alison Cohen, Leora Eisenberg, Sarita Groisser, Laureen Kim, Alan Michels, Drew Parker, Mike Sinai, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein

*Typesetting:* David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

*Printing:* Genesis Printing & Graphics

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

February 1998/Volume 21, Issue 6.

## Summer Camp Financial Aid

Summer sunshine may seem a millennium away, but the Bureau of Jewish Education's financial aid deadline for Jewish overnight camps is just around the corner. Applications are due in the Bureau's office by March 13. For more information or to obtain an application, call Alla Borokovich at 751-6983, ext. 107.

## My Conversion Continues

### Feeling Jewish; Being Jewish

—Tory Weiser

I just completed my Introduction to Judaism class. I learned more about God and prayer, holidays, Jewish text and Jewish expression, and I feel more Jewish. What I mean is that I have a sense of connection when I'm around other Jewish people, and I don't lose that connection when I'm alone. For me, feeling Jewish also means looking forward to Jewish holidays, keeping Shabbat, humming Shabbat songs while I'm walking the dogs and reading more about Judaism.

I first started feeling Jewish when I joined Robin in regularly lighting Shabbat candles on Friday nights, and now I look forward to Shabbat throughout the week. On Saturday nights when I propose to Robin (or she suggests to me) that we say the Havdalah prayers, I feel very Jewish.

But does feeling Jewish make me Jewish? I don't know.

This last Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were my second High Holidays. The first year I experienced the High Holidays I was awed by the enormity of the services. The music was beautiful but I didn't know the songs. I fasted with Robin during Yom Kippur but it was mainly to support her in her fast. The joys and sorrows of the holidays mystified me. Last Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were different. Before the holidays, I attended

Rabbi Litman's three classes on tefillah, teshuvah and tzedakah. I sought out a friend to ask her forgiveness for a mistake I had made during the year and she forgave me. I felt the somberness of Yom Kippur and the delight of Rosh Hashanah. I felt the songs and the prayers. When I fasted I knew I was enacting a near death. Was I more Jewish in 1997 than in 1996? Yes. Was it enough for me to convert? I don't think so.

This Chanukah was my second as well. In 1996, I participated in Robin's Chanukah while celebrating a secular Christmas of my own. This last year, however, Chanukah was mine. I knew the Chanukah story and the prayers and looked forward to lighting the candles in our menorot. Does that mean I was more Jewish this last Chanukah than the year previous? Yes. Was it enough for me to convert? I don't know.

Beginning this February, Robin and I will be taking a class in Prayerbook Hebrew. I'm excited and apprehensive about it. I'm not particularly good at languages. But I know that the class will enhance my feelings of being Jewish.

I'm looking forward to Pesach this year. This will be my third Pesach. I knew very little about Pesach two years ago (Robin and I were just becoming friends). Last year, I remembered that

*Continued on page 8*



UAHC National Biennial, November 1997, Dallas. Left to right: Renée Bauer, Barak Gale, Paul Cohen, Diana Buchbinder, Mike Rankin, Daniel Chesir.



## Rabbi's Column

*Continued from page 1*

than human relations. Even the generic masculine is a difficult puzzle to unravel in Hebrew. For example, the first prayer of the Amidah is called the *avot* (fathers). At CSZ, and in the liturgies of many other congregations, the *imahot* (mothers) are added to the title and body of this prayer. Some people have suggested replacing the resulting rather clunky *avot v'imahot* (fathers and mothers), with *horim*, which is generally translated as parents. But here's the tricky part; *horim* literally means male parents—that is, fathers. In Hebrew, female parents would be called *horot*. Thus using the word *horim* instead of *avot* merely substitutes one form of generic masculine with another. In fact, although in English *horim* appears more inclusive, since in modern Hebrew it is usually translated as parents, liturgically, the term *avot* has historically implied "ancestors," rather than "male ancestors." What's a siddur revision committee to do?

Hebrew words are a challenge to American Jews. Hebrew is our *lashon kodesh*, our holy tongue, but many of us

do not know it very well, if at all. We share it with Jews throughout the world, a common incomprehension of meaningless sacred syllables from our ancient past, a kind of Jewish Sanskrit. This situation isn't new in Jewish history. We tend to romanticize the Jewish past and imagine that until our era every Jew was fluent in Hebrew, studying holy text at the academy every day. But the truth is that Jews have been praying and writing prayers in the vernacular since we became a transnational people over 2,500 years ago. Jewish liturgy includes a number of extremely important prayers—the Kol Nidre, the Kaddish, Ha Lachmah Anyah—which are not in Hebrew, but in Aramaic, the lingua franca of the Babylonian empire. The Talmud explicitly affirms the validity of prayer in the vernacular.

But that does not mean we should abandon Hebrew. Certain Jewish concepts simply cannot be effectively rendered in English. They carry theological overtones which are misrepresented in translation. A good example is the word *tzedakah* from the Hebrew "justice," which is commonly rendered as "charity." Charity connotes an optional per-

sonal gift, but in Jewish communities throughout the ages, *tzedakah* was a mandatory social and religious obligation to ensure an economic safety net for the poor. It was a system of sacred taxation which implemented a set of spiritual values based on the concept of justice, not charity.

I think it is helpful for us as a Jewish community to use those holy words which best describe our values. We then understand these words organically, as our spiritual native tongue. At CSZ, we refer to our governing council as our Va'ad rather than our Board. The word Board has corporate business connotations, but the Va'ad is responsible for the general welfare—both economic and moral—of a Jewish community. I suggest we institute more of these Hebrew terms to describe the congregational work which fulfills our Jewish values. Terms such as Talmud Torah (education), Tikkun Olam (social action) and Tefillah (prayer) serve to subtly educate and socialize us in our own Jewish religious heritage. Torah teaches, "these words ... shall be upon your hearts." Ken yehi ratzon.

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

### SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL CHEVRA KADISHA

San Francisco ... 1501 Divisadero Street at Geary  
(415) 921-3636

East Bay ... 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette  
(510) 284-3945

Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

## GIFT SHOP

Open by appointment (861-6932)

### Brooke Oliver & Associates

An Art, Entertainment, and Business Law Firm  
The Artist Protection Agency

Brooke Oliver

Alison Austin

Mark Talamantes

phone: 415 641 1116  
fax: 415 695 1116  
en Español: 415 289 0506  
BrookeO@ix.netcom.com  
AliAustin@aol.com



50 Balmy  
alley  
S.F. CA. 94110





## CEB January Minutes

**Educator's Report.** David spoke about Kadimah's strengths and weaknesses. He believes Kadimah's current strengths are its goal of community building, its openness to discussing sensitive issues, an educationally-committed teaching staff headed by Phyllis Mintzer, and a rabbi who is committed to taking an active role in the children's education.

The areas of improvement fall into three categories: expectations versus time in school, organization/long term planning and communication. David feels that many parents are expecting more from a Kadimah education than the current time in Kadimah can provide. David, Phyllis and an ad hoc committee are looking into creating a midweek class beginning with Rishonim to strengthen the student's Jewish education. The midweek class would focus on Hebrew, Siddur and trope, while the Saturday class would emphasize Judaica, history, culture, ritual and holiday learning.

Organizationally, David is working with the teachers and parents to create procedures to make the school run more smoothly. Finally, communication among parents, teachers, David and the synagogue has already improved due to several efforts.

**CEB Makeup.** Everyone agreed to the policy presented at the meeting which sets terms at two years and a maximum of two consecutive terms. The procedure for selecting new members has not yet been determined.

**Parents' Council.** Howard Herman and Liz Schaffer (in absentia) presented a draft proposal for a parents' council, with the primary goals being:

- recruitment and scheduling of parent volunteers
- identification, recruiting and scheduling of volunteers who can participate in enrichment activities, and
- development and implementation of community building activities, such as Shabbat dinners, social activities and family programs.

**Saturday vs. Sunday meetings.** The CEB created a format for facilitating the Saturday vs. Sunday meetings.

**Budget.** This will be the primary agenda item at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting.** Monday, February 2. For location information, please contact David at the CSZ office.

## June Bride Returns to SF

### A Night at the Theatre

CSZ's very own Sara Felder will be performing her one woman show, *June Bride*, at A Traveling Jewish Theatre (399-1809) from February 5-March 1. Sara's show is the story of a traditional Jewish lesbian wedding—with a little more juggling. The show takes us from the awkward first date to the culmination of the wedding ceremony—the shattering of the wine glass under the chuppah. In between, we meet the reluctant parents, the blissful brides and the ageless spirit of the Jewish tradition. The play features flying spheres, compelling rhythms, sharp knives, a rhyming poem, a crystal ball, and hopefully, a strait jacket escape, in this hilarious and touching tale of family, tradition and marriage in modern America.

CSZ is sponsoring two special *June Bride* evenings. Following the Thursday, February 19 performance, Rabbi Litman will speak on an interfaith panel with Reverend Jim Mitulski of M.C.C. entitled "God Loves Queers." On Saturday, February 28, CSZ will have a group night out to see the show, before which we will meet for dinner. Group discount tickets are \$15. Call Renée in the office by February 13 to sign up.



Sara Felder in *June Bride*.

## Ruby Cymrot-Wu Bat Mitzvah

On Saturday, February 14, Ruby Cymrot-Wu will be called to the Torah on the occasion of her bat mitzvah. Ruby is well-known to most CSZ'ers as one of our High Holiday shofar sounders, which she has been doing for the past three years.

Ruby is a 7th grader at Brandeis Hillel Day School in San Francisco, where her favorite subject is math because the teacher likes to do hands-on projects. (Ask Ruby the volume of her hands and feet some time!) She also plays drums and symphony bells in the school band. Ruby has a set of drums at home, and she and a few friends are thinking of forming a band.

On Ruby's days off from school, she likes to volunteer at the Tule Elk Park Children's Center, a pre-school for children with disabilities, where her sister Isa (of blessed memory) attended. She spends her time there playing with the kids and helping them set and reach goals, especially with their mobility and communication challenges.

Ruby says that her bat mitzvah is the culmination of something she's worked toward for many years. Because she attends a Jewish day school, she's known the prayers and has been enmeshed in the Jewish community for years. Now she is excited to share her bat mitzvah with all of her classmates. The congregation extends a mazel tov to Ruby and her mothers, Barbara Cymrot and Dafna Wu.



Ruby Cymrot-Wu

## Winter Lights

CSZ member and art teacher Rena Frantz joins more than 18 artists who unveil their talents at the second annual Winter Lights show at the Jewish Community Library, 601 - 14th Avenue, San Francisco. Works range from Judaica to secular themes and are expressed in a variety of media, including oil, clay, watercolor, photography and charcoal. The exhibit runs through February 26. For exhibit hours and more information, call 751-6983, ext. 106.



## Naches

To **Patricia Lin**, in honor of the completion of her Ph.D.

To **Carolyn Reiser**, on being made partner in her firm, Shartsis Friese & Ginsburg.

To **Susan Simpson**, on her entrance into the covenant.

To **Lisa Feldstein and her partner Max Druckman**, on the birth of their daughter, Sophie Rebecca Druckman-Feldstein.

To **Nancy Meyer**, on her new job with Sparks Exhibits.

To **James Carlson**, on his new job as Chief Operating Officer at Newport Pacific Management in San Francisco.

To **Alison Austin**, on the merger of her law practice, The Artist Protection Agency, with Brooke Oliver & Associates.

## Correction

In the December "Rabbi News" article, we reported that Rabbi Litman was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of the Jewish AIDS Project. The correct information is that she was appointed to the AIDS Project Advisory Committee of Jewish Family and Children's Services. (We didn't want anyone to think there was another Jewish AIDS project in San Francisco. Sorry for the confusion.)

## Classifieds

**ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:** Professionalize/computerize your business. Get online now. Quicken • Word • Excel • Hard disk tune-up. Roslyn Fuerman 510/526-1209.

**KAUAI TROPICAL GARDEN RETREAT:** Enchanting setting, perfect for nurturing, healing, romancing. Royal Drive Cottages. Bob Levine/Sandy Meyers Ph/fax, 808/822-2321.

**CLUTTER BUSTERS:** A Professional Organizer. Are schmutzim & chachkes confounding your life? Afraid to open your closet? Packing for a move? Reorganizing after a death? I help you minimize, then reorganize your home, office, garage. References provided. Call 487-8959.

**LOOKING FOR A ROOM TO RENT:** Looking for a lesbian or lesbian-friendly household to call "home" in Glen Park, Noe Valley, Castro or Duboce Triangle. I am 30 years old; I have no pets, but love animals. I can take or leave meat in the house, but not cigarettes. Move-in date is flexible, on a month-to-month lease now. If you are looking for an easygoing roommate who has a sense of humor and an appreciation for life; believes in and practices open communication; is independent and busy, yet sociable and friendly and is respectful of your space (both the literal and figurative kind), please give Elisa a call at (415) 422-0050. If I am not home, please leave a message on my voicemail with the best time to reach you. Or, you can email me at ElisaJF@aol.com. Call me, we'll talk.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## Birthdays

- 1 Joan Goldman
- 1 Alisa Weiner
- 2 Jonah Birnbaum
- 3 Paula Fleisher
- 3 Jacob Robinson
- 4 Marc Breindel
- 4 Alicia Brite
- 5 Patricia Byers
- 5 Ami Zusman
- 5 Steve Weitz
- 6 Steven Diller
- 7 Oscar Klausner
- 7 Ida Kuluk
- 9 Fred Fishman
- 9 Mark Freeman
- 9 Amy Gentile
- 10 Audrey Adelson
- 10 Ruth Miguel
- 10 Pascal Peterson
- 11 Emma Abinanti-Sena
- 11 Marion Williamson
- 12 Samuel Dick-Gelmis
- 12 Joan Lefkowitz
- 13 Leva Choden
- 13 Dafna Wu
- 14 Rimma Ashkinadze
- 14 Sara Feinstein Shor
- 14 Allan Giannini
- 14 Irene Ogos
- 14 Beth Ross
- 14 Susan Unger
- 14 Ron Wolberg
- 15 Russell Discher
- 16 Alexandra Alznauer
- 17 Barry Siegel
- 18 Lauren Augusta
- 20 James Edlin
- 20 Hilary Zaid
- 21 Sandy Lofchie
- 21 Andrew Schwartz
- 21 Amy Scharf
- 22 Carol Cabell
- 22 Gail Friedlander
- 22 Susan Tubbesing
- 24 Rena Fischer
- 24 Joyce Newstat
- 25 Alex Ingersoll
- 25 Nancy Silverrod
- 26 Ethan Frazin
- 27 Abbe Lyons
- 27 Benjamin Rainero-de Haan
- 27 Jacob Rosenbaum
- 28 Julie Dorf
- 28 Steven Gaynes
- 28 Susie Kisber

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## My Conversion

*Continued from page 5*

Pesach was about the liberation from Egypt and about the harvest. The food was all new to me and I mourned the loss of bread. The first night, Robin held a teaching seder for me. The second night I sat in awe at the CSZ seder. But this year the holiday is mine. Robin and I will have our own seder and invite friends to our home. I now know what each of the foods represent and why there is no bread during the week. Do my Pesach knowledge and excited anticipation make me Jewish enough to convert? I don't know.

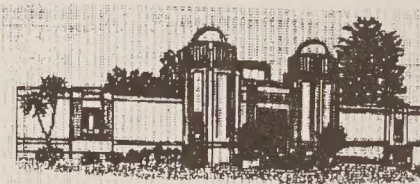
Will I be Jewish enough when I finish reading my assigned books for conversion? I don't know.

Last year I decided to join both Sha'ar Zahav and a CSZ committee, the Newsletter Committee. Since then I have felt more involved with the congregation. Also last year I started a tzedakah project by volunteering at Project Open Hand once a week. But do these things make me conversion material? I don't know.

What will finally make me Jewish? When will I feel Jewish enough to convert? How will I know? Maybe it will be when that small voice inside agrees with me that I'm ready for conversion.

## Mourning and Mitzvah

Anne Brenner, author of *Mourning and Mitzvah*, will lead a workshop for people dealing with the loss of a loved one, on February 22 at 3 pm. Please call the office to register or for more information.



### HILLS OF ETERNITY MEMORIAL PARK

*Serving families of the Jewish faith since 1851*

Designated section for members of  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

For information please call  
Stephen E. Weiner  
Director of Sales

415/756-3633



## World Zionist Congress

*Continued from page 3*  
non-Orthodox movements did not play key roles. Now, we were setting the tone.

After three days of almost round-the-clock meetings, we emerged from the Congress with the following tangible results:

1. ARZENU, the world Reform Zionist movement, received the co-chairship of two major Jewish Agency portfolios—The Israel Department, which oversees Jewish Agency projects in Israel and the Department of the Former Soviet Union, which develops programs in the FSU, and prepares Jews for aliyah. Additionally, ARZENU received the deputy chairship of the Jewish National Fund.

2. An historic resolution was passed by the Congress, insisting on religious pluralism in Israel and voicing vigorous opposition to conversion legislation in the Knesset.

There was high drama during the deliberations surrounding the religious pluralism resolution. Hours of negotiations among Reform, Conservative and Orthodox parties led to a compromise resolution that was supported by all but the Orthodox Mizrahi party. This constituted a huge victory for the forces of pluralism. Never before had the WZO voiced its support for pluralism in such vigorous terms, and never before had it warned of the consequences of religious legislation in such stark language.

In this time of enormous cynicism in Israel concerning the government and the widened gap between the political and religious right and left, it was powerful to hear the fervor with which Hatikvah was sung by all, at the early morning conclusion of the Congress, only minutes following the debate and vote.

If you'd like to talk with me about the WZO conference, or if you'd like a copy of the resolution, please call me at 626-5748.

*Volunteer  
for the  
Newsletter  
Committee!*

## Volunteers Needed

CSZ is looking for a representative to sit on the LGBT Pride Parade committee. Help us make our voices heard (and maybe improve our position in the parade) while learning how the nation's largest pride parade is organized.

This year is Israel's 50th birthday, and the Bay Area Jewish community will be celebrating this important historical event at a big festival in Golden Gate Park on June 7. We need people to help organize CSZ's participation.

Please call Renée in the office if you are interested in working on either of these projects.

## Oneg Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

- 12/12 G'dali Braverman, in memory of his lover, Roy Reinholz.
- 1/2 Patricia Lin, in honor of the completion of her Ph.D.
- 1/16 The families of Marsha and Blanche Blachman, in memory of Ben Blachman.
- 1/30 Sue Simpson, in honor of her entry into the covenant.

## Members' Yahrzeits

- 1 Steven Richter
- 2 Stephen Walters
- 14 Barbara Rosenblum
- 15 Allan Ellis
- 20 Allan Harris



Michael Schaffer and Sarita Groisser at the CSZ family Chanukah party.

## Oneg Service— It's a Mitzvah

Over two years ago, CSZ instituted a rotation whereby each member is assigned to help with one oneg Shabbat each year. This program has, for the most part, been very successful. Oneg set-up and clean-up goes smoothly and no one person or group of people feels the burden too heavily.

We work at refining the system to make it easy to participate. Each quarter, we mail a list of oneg assignments. Approximately ten days prior to your oneg service, you will receive a post card reminder requesting that you call the office to confirm your participation. At that time, you'll also be asked if you would like to help with set-up or with clean-up. If you can't help with the oneg on the particular Friday to which you have been assigned, just call the office in advance and we can arrange for you to do your oneg service on an alternate date.

We have had complaints by some members saying that on their particular Friday no one else showed up to help. Please be aware that if you do not show up for your oneg service, you increase the amount of work that the other CSZ members have to do. We wish to thank everyone who has helped out over the past few years and encourage those of you who have not participated to do so when it is your turn. The important thing to remember is that in doing your oneg service, you enhance everyone's experience and perform a mitzvah for the congregation.

If you have any questions about oneg duty or suggestions for improving the system, please contact Lea in the CSZ office.

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

**CULLUM & SENA**

Divorce, Custody & Support  
Relationship Agreements  
Wills & Living Trusts  
Small Business  
Auto Accidents  
Discrimination

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

"The Cornerstone of  
Our Practice"

Free Initial Consultation

45 POLK STREET SECOND FLOOR SF CA 94102  
PHONE 415. 863. 5300 FAX 415. 863. 8596



*Eat well and perform a mitzvah!*

## Out of Our Kitchen Closets: San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking

CSZ's critically acclaimed cookbook is available from the CSZ office or gift shop.

To order by mail, send \$12.95 per book (plus 8.5% sales tax in California) and \$3.50 shipping for the first book and \$1 each additional copy to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

*The cookbook find of the season.*

—Feminist Bookstore News

*Funny, endearing and inventively cross-cultural.*

—San Francisco Chronicle

CSZ donates \$3 from the sale of each book to the Project Open Hand Food Bank, which provides nonperishable items to people with AIDS. To date, we have given in excess of \$17,000.

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Stanley Saitowitz

Jennifer Hirsch  
(Renée Bauer's partner)

Mark McCormick

Samuel Messler & Tedd Zzenia

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## CSZ AIDS Fund

If finances keep you from attending a synagogue event that has an admission fee, and you are HIV positive or living with AIDS, please know that there are funds available through the CSZ AIDS Fund. Please call Rabbi Litman or Lea at the CSZ office to make your need known.



Aaron and Emma Buchbinder and Allison Schaffer at the family Chanukah party.

## Save the Date

Purim is Wednesday, March 11. Plan on joining us for the Megillah reading and party. Location TBA.

## College Bound?

High school juniors and seniors looking for information about Jewish life on college campuses across the continent will want to check out the Keshet Directory of more than 500 Reform college students who are ready and willing to answer questions about their own campuses. The Keshet Directory is available in printed form by calling Rabbi Jonathan Klein at (914) 987-6359 or sending an e-mail to KESHER@warwick.net.call, or on the Web at <http://www.KeshetNet.com>.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## Anniversaries

- 2 Merry Luskin and Meredith Florian
- 14 Joan Lefkowitz and Stacey Shuster
- 14 Cheryl Sena and Abby Abinanti
- 14 Peter Barnes and Leyna Bernstein
- 17 William Denebeim and Mark Vogel
- 28 Susan Schwartz and Juliette Schlesinger

## Do you have e-mail?

*Drop us a line at*

[shaarzahav@igc.apc.org](mailto:shaarzahav@igc.apc.org)

## Are you on the Net?

*Visit our web site at*

[www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

**WITH MONEY OR PROPERTY  
IF YOU DON'T PLAN—YOUR PARTNER  
LOSES**

~  
**HAROLD LUSTIG, CLU, ChFC**  
FINANCIAL AND ESTATE PLANNING  
FREE CONSULTATION: 415/922-3007

## You are needed!

Get to know what's happening early.

Volunteer for the  
Newsletter Committee.

Call Robin (841-0262).



# Contributions

## AIDS Fund

**Arnie Jackson**, in memory of Richard Wright.  
**Robert Cohen**, in memory of Monty Allport.  
**Neil Hart**, in memory of Tim Elliott.  
**Paul J. Glackman**.  
**Claire Rappoport**, in memory of Bella Rappoport, E. Herbert Schepps and Fela Holzman.

## Bikkur Cholim Fund

**Allan Berenstein**, in appreciation of Florence Nacamulli and Barak Gale.  
**Marilyn Goldfeather**, in memory of Maxine Shear.  
**Eli Weinstein**, in memory of Chuck Norton.  
**Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman**, in memory of Harry S. Trentman.

## Bikkur Cholim Fund in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu

**Patricia Lin**.  
**Zeisel Saunders**.  
**Annabel and Bob Golds**.  
**Sarah Cornsweet**.  
**Jane Kahn**.  
**Samuel and Eleanor Frishman**.  
**Thomas and Deborah Herzfeld**.  
**Deanna Stilwell**.  
**Emily Doskow**.  
**Shelley Eisenman and Julie Moed**.  
**Eve Bernstein and Alex Gersznowicz**.  
**Susan Stone and Ellen Schwerin**.  
**Hannah Marks**.  
**Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz**.  
**Renée Bauer and Jennifer Hirsch**.  
**Nicole Bloom**.  
**Steve Horowitz**.  
**Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart**.  
**Seth Charney**.  
**Agnes B. Schwartz**.  
**Jonathan Funk**.  
**Allan Berenstein**.  
**Ron Lezell**.  
**Judy Macks**.  
**David Stein and Alex Ingersoll**.  
**Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman**.  
**Bob and Riva Frederick**.  
**Liz and Michael Schaffer**.  
**Ida Kuluk**.  
**Jerry Rosenstein**.  
**Marshall and Judith Schwartz**.  
**Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser**.  
**Ellie Cohen and Greta Miskatel**.

## Children's Education Fund

**Eileen Levy**, in honor of Jeanette Nichols' entrance into the covenant.  
**Benjamin P. Gold**, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.  
**Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara**, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.

## General Fund

**Allan Giannini**, in honor of Mike Rankin's retirement.  
**Ben Bank and Brian Jersky**, in memory of Leiba Skudowitz and Pauline Jersky.  
**David Stein and Alex Ingersoll**, in memory of Maxine Shear.  
**C. Greenbaum**.  
**Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz**, in memory of Maxine Shear.  
**Carolyn Pines**, in memory of Harriet Strauber Pines.  
**Clarence McClanahan**.  
**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Ellen Albin.  
**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of A. J. Berenstein.  
**Dorothea and Harry Norton**, in memory of Chuck Norton.  
**Ami Zusman**.  
**Esther Rubin**.  
**Frank Greenberg and C. Linwood Vincent**, in honor of Dr. Mike Rankin's retirement.  
**Liz and Michael Schaffer**, in memory of Maxine Shear.  
**Liz and Michael Schaffer**, in memory of Lillian Sigal.  
**Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman**, with thanks to the CSZ community for its support.  
**Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman**, with thanks to Daniel Chesir, Marsha Blachman and Ida Kuluk.  
**Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman**, in memory of Harry S. Trentman.  
**Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman**, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.  
**Frederick Zimmerman**.  
**Jeffrey Sherman**, in memory of Ida and Joseph Rosenthal.  
**Kenny Altman**, in memory of Minnie Kirschenbaum.  
**Lezlie Frishman**, in honor of Ellen Goldstein.  
**Michael Kay**, in memory of George Kay.  
**Nancy Meyer**, in honor of all those who provided loving care and support to her and Daniel.  
**Sarah Comerchero**, in memory of Isaac Judah Comerchero.  
**Melinda Basker**.  
**Jason Honig**.  
**Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser**, in memory of Maxine Shear.  
**Jeff Cochran and Miriam Wugmeiste**.  
**Jean Sward**.  
**Michael Gitt**.  
**Roy Bateman**.  
**Rachel Wahba and Judy Dlugacz**, in memory of Katie Wahba.  
**Jerry Rosenstein**, in memory of his family.

## Inclusive Liturgy Fund

**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Harry S. Trentman.  
**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Sherman D. Kalis.  
**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Dorothy Kalis Hodes.  
**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Phillip Kalis.  
**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Chuck Norton.  
**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.  
**Batya Kalis**, in honor of Jhos, Bon and Michael Singer.  
**Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman**, in memory of Bernice Michaelson.  
**Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser**, in memory of Harry S. Trentman.

## Mishkan Dolores Fund

**Shelley Eisenman and Julie Moed**.  
**Shelley Eisenman and Julie Moed**, in honor of Miriam Zoe Heath Katz.  
**Hal Podgur**, in memory of George Levine.  
**Elizabeth Katz**, in honor of Rabbi Litman.  
**Ellie Cohen and Greta Miskatel**, in honor of the birth of Michael Singer.  
**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Cheryl Orvis.  
**Paula Fleisher**, in memory of Isidor Fleisher.  
**Judith and David Wexler**.  
**Vicki Shipkowitz**.  
**O'Mahony and Myer**.  
**Natalie and Jim Jalenak**.  
**Steve Elman and Tom Holt**, in memory of Hy Elman.  
**Seth Frohman, Rafi Hoch and Claire Hoch-Frohman**.  
**Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman**, in honor of Milton Starkman's milestone birthday.  
**Ann Biderman**, in memory of the members of the Biderman and Prengler families who were lost in the Holocaust.  
**Dr. and Mrs. Russel J. Tat**, in memory of Albert K. Sherwin, Max Samuel Tat and Rose Irene Tat.  
**Benjamin P. Gold**, in memory of Dorothy Tonn Gold and in honor of Allan Gold for his work for the congregation.  
**Noah Benjamin**.  
**Frederick Persiko**.  
**Bea Lieberman**, in memory of Estelle Lieberman.  
**Valerie Rubenstein**.

## Mishkan Dolores Fund in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe

**Allan Berenstein**.  
**Ron Lezell**.  
**Kim Merkin**.  
**Merrill George**.  
**Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser**.  
**Esther and Sharyn Saslafsky**.  
**Shirley Liberman and Margaret Livingston**.

*Continued on page 12*



## Contributions

*Continued from page 11*

Eric and Aaron Cooper-Keitel.  
Jonathan Funk and John Arnold.  
Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz.  
Mitchell and Marjorie Schwarzer.  
Robert Tat.  
Sharon Tanenbaum and Matrisha Person.  
Bill Hirsh.  
Daniel Chesir and Stefan Rowniak.  
Judy Macks.  
David Stein and Alex Ingersoll.  
Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz.  
Shelley Eisenman and Julie Moed.  
Nancy Koch.  
Ida Kuluk.  
Hal Fischer.  
Ami Zusman.  
Jerry Rosenstein.  
Eve Meyer and Jim Edlin.

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in honor of Rabbi Litman's installation.  
Jhos, Bon and Michael Singer, in honor of Rabbi Litman's holy and awesome presence at Mikey's *brit milah*.  
Dan Bellm and Yoel Kahn, in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu.  
Alan Ferrara, in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu.  
Robert Cohen, in loving memory of Fred McAuliffe.  
Dorothy Tompkins, in memory of Chuck Norton.  
Miriam Trentman, in memory of Harry S. Trentman.  
Claudia Bernard, with thanks for Rabbi Litman's loving and devoted pastoral care of her mother.  
Henry Carrey, in memory of Abraham Carrey and Hyman Post.

### *Rabbi's Study Fund of the Mishkan Dolores Campaign*

Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines.  
Harold and Dorothy Comins.  
Robert Cohen.  
William Krisel.  
Ellen Shavelson.  
David Hyman.



*Hadassah ladies, Jeff Forman and Jeff Sherman, frying latkes at the CSZ Men's Chanukah party.*

## Synagogue Information

### Rabbi Jane Litman

#### Officers:

*President*, Diana Buchbinder  
(337-6319 or  
threebuchs@sprynet.com)  
*First Vice President*, David Gellman  
*Second Vice President*, Susan  
Tubbesing  
*Treasurer*, Arthur Slepian  
*Recorder*, Mark Bowers

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok  
Ellie Cohen  
Jeff Forman  
Lyssa Friedman  
Sara Haber  
Joe Hample  
Lisa Katz  
Eileen Levy  
Julie Moed

#### CSZ Staff:

*Director of Education*, David Shneer  
*Administrator*, Lea Salem  
*Kadimah Head Teacher*, Phyllis Mintzer  
*Administrative Assistant*, Amy Clark  
*Program Coordinator*, Renée Bauer

#### Committee Chairs:

*Adult Education*, Sue Bojdak  
*Archives*, open  
*ARZA contact*, Ron Lezell  
*Baby Chavurah*, Lisa Katz  
*Bequests and Donations*, Richard  
Inlander  
*Bikkur Cholim*, David Shaber  
*Bisexual Chavurah*, Jim Frazin  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
*Brotherhood*, Stephan Howard  
*Building*, Mark Klaiman  
*Bylaws*, Edward Pollock  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Children's Education Board*, Ruth  
Rainero  
*Cookbook Project*, Robin Leonard  
*Dues Liaison*, Sara Haber  
*East Bay Services*, Hilary Zaid  
*Endowment Fund*, Merry Luskin

*Environmental Action*, Barak Gale and  
Brian Besser  
*Finance*, Arthur Slepian  
*Fine Arts*, Alice Prussin  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*La'atid*, Geoff Benjamin  
*Leadership Development*, Irene Ogus  
and Paul Cohen  
*Library*, open  
*Long-Range Planning*, Allan Gold  
*Membership*, Ami Zusman  
*Mishkan Dolores Campaign*, Ellie  
Cohen and Lisa Katz  
*Newsletter*, Robin Leonard  
*Oneg*, open  
*Past Presidents Council*, Merry Luskin  
*Personnel*, Susan Tubbesing  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslafskey  
*Rabbi Liaison*, Allan Gold  
*Ritual*, Lyssa Friedman  
*Social Action*, Eloise Magenheimer  
*Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah*, Ilana  
Bernstein  
*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WCGLJO Liaison*, Neil Grungras  
*Women's Chavurah*, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Congress

of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.



<b>1 Sunday</b> <b>5 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federation Super Sunday</li> </ul>	<b>8 Sunday</b> <b>12 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UAHC Spirituality Retreat, Camp Newman</li> </ul>	<b>15 Sunday</b> <b>19 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 am, Tu B'Shevat tree planting, Muir Woods</li> <li>1:30 pm, Feast of Jewish Learning: Tu B'Shevat Celebration, Strybing Auditorium, Golden Gate Park</li> </ul>	<b>22 Sunday</b> <b>26 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 am, La'atid's Queer Jewish Identity Panel, Presidio Alliance.</li> <li>3 pm, <i>Mourning and Mitzvah</i> presentation</li> </ul>
<b>2 Monday</b> <b>6 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 pm, Healing Service, Congregation Sherith Israel</li> <li>7 pm, Children's Education Board</li> </ul>	<b>9 Monday</b> <b>13 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting</li> <li>7 pm, Newsletter Layout</li> </ul>	<b>16 Monday</b> <b>20 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healing Service canceled</li> <li>7 pm, Membership Committee</li> </ul>	<b>23 Monday</b> <b>27 Shevat</b>
<b>3 Tuesday</b> <b>7 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 pm, Dues Committee</li> <li>7 pm, Jewish History Class</li> </ul>	<b>10 Tuesday</b> <b>14 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 noon, Lunch &amp; Learn with Rabbi Litman, 465 California St., Suite 1100</li> <li>7 pm, Tu B'Shevat Seder, Congregation Beth Shalom</li> </ul>	<b>17 Tuesday</b> <b>21 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm, Jewish History Class</li> </ul>	<b>24 Tuesday</b> <b>28 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm, Jewish History Class</li> </ul>
<b>4 Wednesday</b> <b>8 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm, Architecture &amp; Design</li> <li>7 pm, Newsletter Editing</li> </ul>	<b>11 Wednesday</b> <b>15 Shevat</b> <b>Tu B'Shevat</b>	<b>18 Wednesday</b> <b>22 Shevat</b>	<b>25 Wednesday</b> <b>29 Shevat</b>
<b>5 Thursday</b> <b>9 Shevat</b>	<b>12 Thursday</b> <b>16 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm, Men's programming planning meeting, 676 Duncan St.</li> <li>7 pm, Women's Tu B'Shevat Seder, San Francisco JCC</li> </ul>	<b>19 Thursday</b> <b>23 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm, Bikkur Cholim</li> <li>7 pm, Newsletter Distribution</li> </ul>	<b>26 Thursday</b> <b>30 Shevat</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 pm, Ritual Committee</li> </ul>
<b>6 Friday</b> <b>10 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UAHC Spirituality Retreat, Camp Newman</li> <li>5:21 pm, Candle lighting</li> <li>7 pm, Early Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Batya Kalis</li> <li>8:15 pm, Shabbat Be-shalach, led by Nicole Bloom, Batya Kalis, Brian Besser and Ruby Cymrot-Wu</li> </ul>	<b>13 Friday</b> <b>17 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:29 pm, Candle lighting</li> <li>7:15 pm, Niggun service</li> <li>8:15 pm, Shabbat Yitro, led by Eileen Levy and Tiela Chalmers; sermon by Rabbi Litman</li> </ul>	<b>20 Friday</b> <b>24 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:36 pm, Candle lighting</li> <li>8:15 pm, East Bay service</li> <li>8:15 pm, Shabbat Shekalim/Mishpatim, led by Larry Wexler and Patricia Lin</li> </ul>	<b>27 Friday</b> <b>1 Adar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:43 pm, Candle lighting</li> <li>6:45 pm, Tot Shabbat</li> <li>8:15 pm, Shabbat Teruma, led by Rabbi Litman, Sarita Groisser and Phyllis Mintzer</li> </ul>
<b>7 Saturday</b> <b>11 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UAHC Spirituality Retreat, Camp Newman</li> <li>9:30 am, Kadimah</li> <li>9:30 am, Torah Study, Congregation Emanu-El</li> </ul>	<b>14 Saturday</b> <b>18 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Kadimah</li> <li>Torah Study canceled</li> <li>10 am, Shabbat Service, Bat Mitzvah of Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Fort Mason, Building A</li> </ul>	<b>21 Saturday</b> <b>25 Shevat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 am, All-day Ritual Committee meeting</li> <li>9:30 am, Kadimah</li> <li>9:30 am, Torah study, Congregation Emanu-El</li> </ul>	<b>28 Saturday</b> <b>2 Adar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 am, Kadimah</li> <li>9:30 am, Men's Minyan and brunch</li> <li>9:30 am, Torah Study, Congregation Emanu-El</li> <li>10:30 am, Rabbi Litman, "Learn what our children learn," Congregation Emanu-El</li> <li>6 pm, CSZ attends <i>June Bride</i> (dinner first), A Traveling Jewish Theatre</li> </ul>

**Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.**

## FEBRUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

### FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

### FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Please submit articles both on 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper *double spaced*. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. *No deadline extensions without advance permission of Robin Leonard at 841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com.*

### East Bay Services

- 2/20 Location TBA; call Hilary Zaid at 510/654-8907
- 3/20 Location TBA; call Hilary Zaid at 510/654-8907



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV  
290 DOLORES STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NO. 12628  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA



YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR  
OF THE TREES AT A SPECIAL

# TU B'SHVAT SEDER

HONORING THE 25TH YAHRZEIT  
OF RABBI ABRAHAM HESCHEL

"The opposite of good is not evil;  
the opposite of good is indifference."

Tonight we will learn about the Torah of the ancient forest, with special emphasis on the Headwaters Forest, and we will not be indifferent to the desecration of God's garden.

**Tuesday Feb. 10, 1998 @ 7:00 pm**  
**at Congregation Beth Sholom**  
**The Friedman Center, 14th & Clement, SF**

Sponsored by Congregations Beth Sholom,  
Sha'ar Zahav and Beth Chaim, and the Jewish  
Community Center of San Francisco

- \* We will welcome "Redwood Rabbi" Naomi Steinberg, who will share a special Tu B'Shvat chant
- \* Ritual seder rooted in Kabbalist tradition
- \* Light kosher vegetarian fare
- \* Please bring (if you can) a donation to Fresh Start Farms, a gardening program for the homeless

**Members of sponsoring institutions \$8, Public \$10**

Reservations required  
by January 30

Checks payable to: Beth Sholom  
Please send to: Janet Harris  
Cong. Beth Sholom  
PO Box 590418, SF 94159-0418  
(Limited subsidies available.  
Call Janet at 415 221-8736)

Program is partly funded by the  
Koret Synagogue Initiative

No tickets will be sent.  
Reservations will be  
held at the door.

For information contact Barak Gale at (415) 543-9011.

YES, please save me a place at the Tu B'shevat Seder.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations @ \$8 \_\_\_\_\_

@ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Excerpts from the statement released December 30, 1997. Call CSZ office at 415 861-6932 for full statement.

### Act Now to Preserve the Ancient Redwoods of Headwaters Forest

#### Background

The Headwaters forest ecosystem, located in Northern California's Humboldt County, contains six groves of old growth redwoods which are indispensable habitat for several endangered species, including the Marbled Murrelet sea bird. The forest, owned by the Maxxam Corporation, is the last remaining privately-owned virgin redwood forest in the world. Maxxam currently uses destructive clearcutting methods, logging old growth, and plans to undertake "salvage logging" practices on four of the six ancient redwood groves. Maxxam has submitted a "Habitat Conservation Plan" which proposes to liquidate most of the old growth property-wide (including four ancient redwood groves). Only 7,500 acres would remain protected. This deforestation would seriously damage the health of Headwaters and, thus, threaten the survival of many plant and animal species.

#### Judaism and Redwood Protection

In 1991, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations passed a resolution which called upon "federal, states, and local governments of the United States, to ensure the continuation of animal and plant species." In 1996, the Central Conference of American Rabbis called for "conservation of all animal and plant species by recognition of the principle role habitat preservation plays in species conservation." This call for protection is deeply rooted in our tradition. The principle of *bal taschit* forbids the wanton destruction of anything from which humanity may benefit (Deuteronomy 20). We are commanded to act as stewards of all of God's creation; "the Eternal placed the human being in the Garden of Eden to till it and to tend it" (Genesis 2:15).

#### Recommended Actions

1. Write to your U.S. senators and representatives asking them to:

Support the bipartisan Endangered Species Recovery Act (H.R.2351). This bill has been endorsed by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (formerly NJCRAC) and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life;

Urge that all Pacific Lumber lands be managed in an ecologically responsible manner, including permanent protection of all ancient redwood groves and other habitat necessary for the recovery of threatened and endangered species, as required by the federal Endangered Species Act;

Implement the recommendations of the Recovery Plan for the marbled murrelet, that was released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in September 1997;

Support a process whereby citizens of the region can actively participate in conservation plans for Pacific Lumber lands, including on-site monitoring of lumber operations; and

Develop a plan that would provide for the workers and families dependent upon Pacific Lumber for their livelihood.

To a senator: The Honorable (full name)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Dear Senator\_\_\_\_\_:

To a representative: The Honorable (full name)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
Dear Representative\_\_\_\_\_:

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121. Some Congressional offices also have a public fax number available at your request. Although electronic mail is most effective when used in conjunction with a call or letter, you can find senators' and representatives' e-mail addresses at: <http://www.senate.gov/senator/membmail.html>

2. Write to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, California Governor Pete Wilson, and Maxxam Corporation, urging them to preserve the remaining unprotected ancient redwood groves in the Headwaters ecosystem.

Secretary Bruce Babbitt  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Governor Pete Wilson  
State Capitol, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Maxxam Corporation  
P.O. Box 57288  
Houston, TX 77257-2887

- See reverse side for Tu B'Shvat flier -